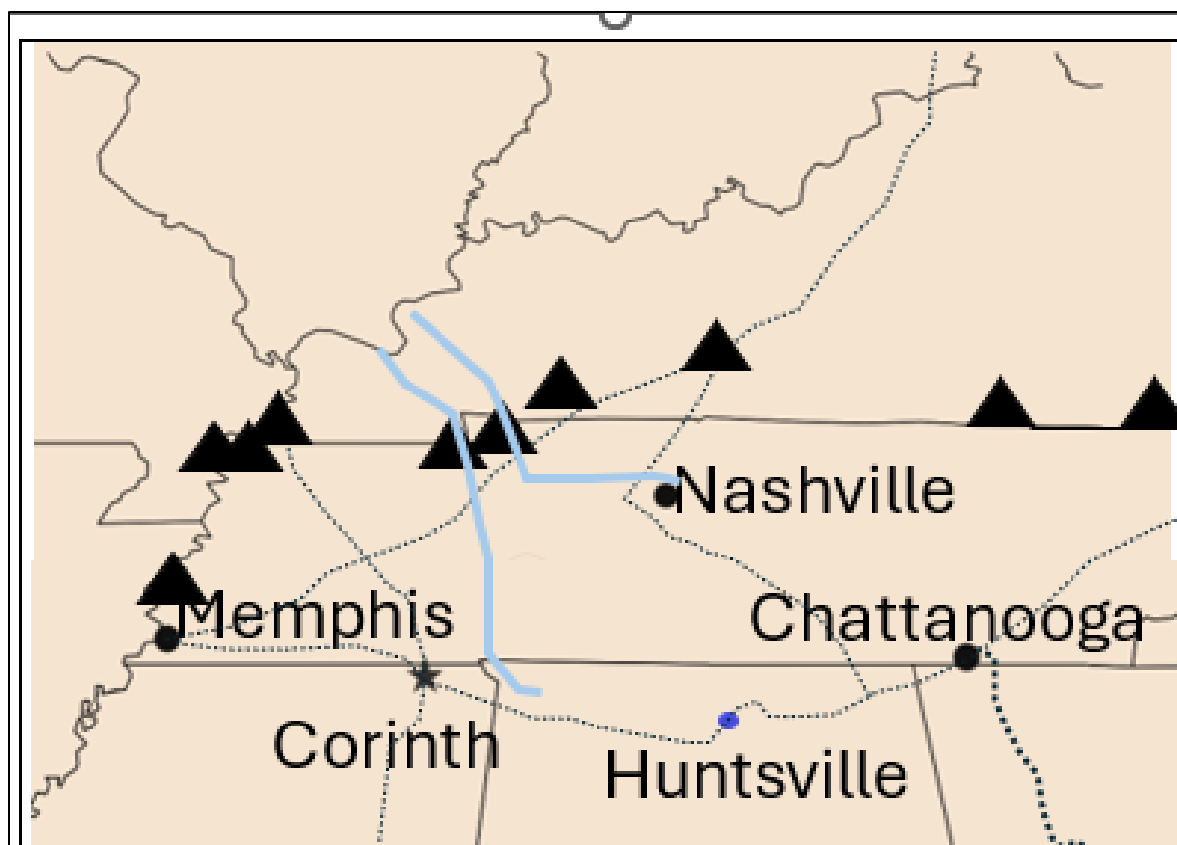




This map, showing forts/armed camps, navigable rivers, and railroads, will form a basis for discussion.

Questions to consider:

1. Why was Albert Sidney Johnston placed behind only Samuel Cooper in order of seniority when the list of Confederate full generals was put together?
2. Where did Jefferson Davis first meet Johnston?
3. In what armies was Johnston a serving officer?
4. What were the limits of the command he was given by President Davis in 1861?
5. When did he reach this command, and why was that timing important? What had happened a few days earlier?
6. Where was his headquarters established? Why? Was there a better place for it?

Johnston divided his forces from the Mississippi (both banks) east into three divisions. Strengths given are present for duty, equipped:

Polk: Columbus, KY, 12,000 men (all the way to Memphis;

Buckner: Bowling Green, KY 5,000 men;

Zollicoffer: Cumberland Ford (Pineville, KY), 3,549 men

His opponents east of the Mississippi were:

Grant (under Fremont): Cairo, Paducah, Mound City, 16,342;

Sherman (took over from Anderson), Henderson, in front of Louisville, and Camp Dick Robinson, 20,000

7. What was Johnston doing in September?
8. On October 28, 1861, Johnston moved forward to take personal command at Bowling Green. Why?

No significant events until January 1862 – both sides gathering recruits and weapons while keeping a wary eye on each other. Patrolling, skirmishes and minor engagements. Sherman replaced by Buell, Hardee commands at Bowling Green under Johnston

Johnston had by the end of December 1861:

20,992 under Polk around Columbus;

22,253 under Hardee around Bowling Green;

6,154 under Crittenden/Zollicoffer at Mill Springs

Grant had 14,324 around Cairo and Paducah – 10 days later he had over 20,000 with more on the way

Buell had 13,256 under Thomas south of Lexington, and around 45,000 (trained and equipped) along the Green River and east facing Bowling Green

9. Why didn't Johnston attack Grant since he outnumbered Grant in that sector?
10. What was the first major engagement after the New Year, when did it occur, and what were the results?
11. How did Johnston react to this defeat?
12. After the fall of Fort Henry on 6 February, Johnston, Beauregard, and Hardee met to discuss what was to be done. Based on these discussions, decisions were made and instructions issued. What key assumption was made initially at the meeting?
 - a. What direction was Polk given for the western sector? What was the logic? Was there a better option?
 - b. What was Hardee directed to do? Was there a better option?
13. What was the reaction from Richmond? Discuss its timing (8 Feb).

By 11 February, there were around 16,000 Confederate troops at Fort Donelson, of whom only around 2,200 would escape. There were four brigadier generals assigned (in seniority order: Floyd,

Pillow, Buckner, and Bushrod Johnson). Johnston knew about Floyd's incompetence from the Mormon expedition.

14. Why didn't Johnston go there to assume command, or send Beauregard, or Hardee?

Johnston gave the following instructions to Floyd: "If you lose the fort, bring your troops to Nashville if possible." Floyd surrendered his post on 16 February, but personally fled as did Pillow. Johnston abandoned Nashville for Murfreesboro in the 18th, and made the decision to move the army to Huntsville and Decatur on the 27th, By March 5, he was in Huntsville and his army was heading to Corinth. Beauregard evacuated Columbus March 3, manning Island #10 and New Madrid, while concentrating his maneuver force at Humbolt, TN

15. Why did Johnston choose Corinth as the location for concentrating forces in the west? Was there a better or alternative choice?

Starting March 8th, Union forces started arriving at Savannah, TN, and by the 15th Union troops were at Pittsburg Landing. Buell started moving out of Nashville toward Savannah. Johnston ordered Van Dorn (west of the Mississippi) to join him as soon as possible.

16. Why did Johnston wait so late to order Van Dorn forward?

On March 29th, Johnston organized into 3 corps under Polk, Bragg, and Hardee, with a smaller reserve under Crittenden and Breckinridge. Beauregard was designated deputy army commander and Bragg as Chief of Staff as well as commanding a corps. As of the 31st, he reported 39,730 effective troops, and on the 1st he put the units on alert, prepared to move. Movement toward Pittsburg Landing was to start the morning of the 3rd.

17. What drove Johnston's decision to attack without Van Dorn?

18. What was the attack position to be and how were the three corps to be arranged?

Who wrote out the detailed orders to units?

19. How were they actually arranged? Why? How did this affect Johnston's desire to sweep the Union army into the swamps of Owl Creek?

Due to delays getting all the troops into attack positions, some forces were near the Union lines while others were far away. Johnston delayed the attack until the 6th.

20. What was Beauregard's recommendation and Johnston's reply?

